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CLINICAL TESTS PROVE NASAL FILTER EFFECTIVE

Clinical tests carried out on a nasal filter invented by scientists at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research in Sydney have shown the device to be effective in the prevention of hay fever.

The results of the trial will be presented at the European Academy of Allergy Conference which will be held in Amsterdam on the 12th-16th June 2004.

Trial results show the filters greatest effect is the reduction of nasal symptoms, with sniffles being reduced by 56%. This was in direct comparison with the placebo group who experienced a 126% increase in sniffles during the same exposure to pollens.

During the trial the nasal filter was found to collect 97% of inhaled pollens. The airflow resistance of the filters was also measured and while found to cause a noticeable change in nasal resistance it was substantially below that believed to cause flow limitation.

Over 90% of participants in the study indicated they would be willing to wear the nasal filter again.

Conducted over the past two years, the tests have indicated for the first time just how well the nasal filter combines efficient and high particle capture with low airflow resistance to reduce the inhalation of outdoor allergens.

Dr Tim O'Meara, Business Development Manager at the Institute said, While we knew the science was possible, we were less certain about how well the filter would control symptoms and peoples reactions to wearing the filter.

The filter device was initially developed five years ago with a view to finding out what was in the air people were breathing that caused hay fever symptoms.

Dr O'Meara explains, What we found at the time was participants who wore the filter for us didn't seem to suffer the same degree of hay fever symptoms.

This latest clinical trial puts that theory to the test, with terrific results, he said.

Now we know it is possible to provide hay fever sufferers with a drug free means to reducing their exposure to seasonal allergens, the challenge is on to refine the nasal filter design so it meets all requirements, adds Dr O'Meara.

A new trial comparing the nasal filter with traditional medicines used to treat hay fever has just got underway at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research in Camperdown, Sydney.

The Woolcock Institute is looking for more participants for this current trial. Participants must be sufferers of hay fever and able to visit the hospital once a week, over a four week period. To register interest, please contact Monique Macara, Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, ph. (02) 9515 8710.